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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tetsuyo OTSUKI

Group Art Unit: 2818

Application No.: 10/624,680

Examiner: L. Tran

Filed: July 23, 2003

Docket No.: 116568

For: INTERCONNECT SUBSTRATE, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, METHODS OF  
MANUFACTURING THE SAME, CIRCUIT BOARD, AND ELECTRONIC  
EQUIPMENT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the October 1, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group II, claims 93-113, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that in accordance with MPEP §821.04, if product claims are elected and subsequently allowed, rejoinder of non-elected process claims which depend from or otherwise include all of the limitations of allowed product claims will be permitted. Accordingly, Applicant submits that upon allowance of elected claims 93-113, non-elected Group I (claims 1-92) should be rejoined and similarly allowed as Group I is the method of making the semiconductor device recited in the Group II claims.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-113 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made

without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 29, 2004

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